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ORIGIN AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION IN THE COUNTIES OF DOWN AND ANTRIM,

By THE REV. A. HUME, D.C.L., LL.D., F.S.A.

Breathes there the man, with soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said,
This is my own, my native land !

SCOTT.

I. INTRODUCTION.

THE people in every country bear some relation to the district which gave them birth. The action of climate, for example, is well known, in producing the idleness of tropical lands, the voluptuousness of southern Europe, or the stunted growth and peculiar appetites of the polar regions. Similarly, elevation produces its effect. The Highlander is temperate, active, and independent; the inhabitant of the plains is taller, more bulky in person, and more luxurious in habits. In the neighbourhood of the sea, there is generally health of body and soundness of mind; near a large town vice is easily learned. In some rural districts, where the routine duties of life are merely mechanical, man possesses few traits that raise him above the mere animal; in the worst part of the Irish bogs, it seems as if the exhalations had poisoned the energies of the people. But other causes, which Blackstone would call "incorporeal," are quite as effectual as physical ones. The hardy borderer, of the temperament of the gallant Sir Philip Sidney, is stirred by some local minstrel's tale more than with the "sound of a trumpet." The Englishman, from traditional association, regards it as part of his national creed to despise the French, and to consider his own country as the greatest in the world. And often when the Irishman of pure descent is destitute both of food and shelter, he will relate with glowing cheek and flashing eye, the ancient glories of his country, of which few, alas! even of the readers of history know or care to know anything authentic. If Ethnology be not a fable, and education and association mere amusements, instead of powerful operating causes, it is necessary to consider the circumstances into which any people are cast, in examining the character of the people themselves.

The examination, which I propose to myself to make, commences at a comparatively modern point; there are however, some influences which are permanent, and others of very long standing. The facts of external nature are of course the same at all times, and influence the people of one century as well as those of another. But as there may be enemies or friends, so there are attachments or antipathies, obstacles or advantages. The settlers in the unpeopled plains of Australia are free from all interference but that of their countrymen or companions; but immigrants to a country which has pre-

viously been at all populous, may become, as some did in Ireland, "more Irish than the Irish themselves," or may, like the Saxons in England, make the name, and language, and institutions of the country their own. For these reasons, a few preliminary remarks are indispensable.

II. ANTIQUITY OF THE DISTRICT.

REGARDED as a scene of human existence, the district comprised by these two counties yields in antiquity perhaps to no other in the island. Beyond the period of historic records, it is true that we can only arrive at general conclusions, but some of these are too important to be overlooked.—Of the implements which are generally known in Ireland as "pagan," some are the production of a rude primitive people, and others are so artistic in their character as to indicate a high degree of civilization. Both classes are frequently found in the district; showing that it has been trodden by the foot of the savage, as well as inhabited by the more enlightened people over whose history a cloud still rests. From north to south of the district under review, the monuments which are called Druidical, British, Celtic, &c., exist; others popularly assigned to the Danes are very numerous, and occasionally peculiar in their structure; there is a fair proportion of the Round Towers of primitive christian times; and antiquities of a mediæval or more recent character are not wanting. All of these will, no doubt, be treated of in order, in separate articles of this Journal.

It is little to say, however, that these two counties possess the average amount of interest, and demand a fair share of attention, in connexion with the history of the Island. They do more; for the history of the Island cannot be written without their obtaining a special notice. For example, the ecclesiastical historian, in treating of the introduction of Christianity and the happy and marked results which it produced, must notice the patron Saint of the Island, who was prominently identified with this district. In Antrim he herded swine,^a in the capacity of a youthful captive, before truth had dawned on his mind, or his great mission had become a settled duty. In Down he made his first convert within a few miles^b of Belfast; and in the church yard of a neighbouring town^c which still bears his name, he found his last resting place. Downpatrick and Armagh may almost be regarded as twin sisters; and from the light which they shed in an early age, a spark must have emanated to illuminate and to warm the district which lay between them and around.

Nor does the writer of civil history find any deficiency of materials. At a remote period he finds here the territory of Ulidia, whose name was extended to comprehend the whole of modern Ulster,—formerly a kingdom of the pentarchy, and still traditionally and conventionally a province. In Antrim was

^a Near Mrs. viz.: Slievemis, the modern Sleamish.

^b At Saul near Downpatrick, the Chieftain Diho and his people received the truth near a large barn, on the site of which a church was erected. The place, named from the church, is to this day "in the Scottish (i.e. Irish)

tongue ZABBUL PADRIG, that is PATRICK ZABBUL, or Patrick's barn."

MONAS. HIBERNIC.

^c Hi tres in DUXO, tumultu tumultantur in uno, Brigida, PATRICIUS, atque Columba pius.

the residence of the kings of Ulidia; and in Down the chivalrous Red-Branch Knights^a held their territory. After the English invasion, the story of these counties is full of incidents, and these are more definitely preserved. There is no romance required to gild the biography of the gallant DeCourcy, who contended with his stout heart and strong arm, in the unequal struggle against both "friends" and foes. One can easily imagine, too, the difficulties that beset the early invaders who resided in this part of the Pale, in battling for a foothold on the fertile plains of Lecale, or among the hillocks of the Ards. The men whose fathers and whose grandsires had successfully repelled an invasion of Danes^e were unable to resist the power and pertinacity of the Normans.

If Literature be the theme, we claim the real Ossian, as not partly, but altogether, our own.—He was an Irish hero, and his praises are still sung by the peasantry, in a language which possessed written characters for centuries before the Erse of North Britain was any thing else than a spoken tongue. A modern writer fancies that he sees in the district around Belfast,^f the places which are faintly shadowed in Macpherson's alleged translation; but this is only "the echo of an echo;" fancy playing with what is now acknowledged fiction. We claim more than this, for we identify the hero of history as distinct from the creation of romance; and it is unquestionable that the traditions and poems respecting him first reached the Highlands of Argyle, through our countrymen who settled there in the early ages of Christianity. Round the coast of Antrim or along the right bank of the Bann, the bearers of these traditions must have passed; and many of those who cherished and transmitted them, resided in the "Glynnes;" opposite the shores where their countrymen had found a new home. It is a fact of much interest and of some significance, that the very imitations^g of these poems,—in connexion with another country, a different language, and secondary sources of information,—should have attracted so much of the attention of the learned.

But it is not merely our Literature by which other lands have been benefited.—Scotland has received from this country, and mainly from these two counties, the race of her conquerors, the line of her kings, and her very name. The Dalriadic Scots^h who emigrated, some from Down but the greater part from Antrim, in the third century, gave the name of their leaderⁱ to districts on both sides of the channel: amid the mountain fastnesses of the modern Argyle, they maintained their position for more than two centuries; occasionally asserting their supremacy in some of the neighbouring isles. In

^a Her kings, with standard of green unfurl'd,
Led the Red-Branch Knights to danger;
Ere the emerald gem of the western world
Was set in the crown of a stranger.

MOORE,

^e From the Isle of Man, by Magnus, King of the Orkneys.

^f An attempt was made to establish this in "OSSIAN," a pamphlet by Hu. Campbell, Esq., the principles of which are explained in Benn's History of the town of Belfast, 8vo., 1822.

^g The following is part of a note from Bishop Percy to Dr. Robert Anderson of Edinburgh; dated Dromore

House, April 13th. 1835. "The Bishop of Dromore has allowed Dr. Anderson to declare, that he repeatedly received the most positive assurances from Sir John Elliott, the confidential friend of Macpherson, that all the poems published by him as translations of Ossian, were entirely of his own composition." See Malcolm Laing's edition and prefaces. 2 vols 8vo.

^h That is IRISH.

ⁱ Dal-riada, so called from Cairbre Riada son of King Conaire, comprehended the greater portion of the modern County Antrim. It is often confounded with Dal-riada in Down, to which it was naturally related; but from which it was artificially distinct.

the very beginning of the sixth century, they were strengthened and re-established by a new colonization from the same district; in which the three sons of Ere—Loarn, Fergus and Angus¹—were the acknowledged leaders. Of two of the brothers, one has written his name on the shore of Belfast Lough,^k the other is still commemorated in Lorn^l which gives the title of Marquis to the Dukes of Argyle. More firmly concentrated, and exalted to the dignity of a separate kingdom, these Scots from Scotia-Major (Hibernia) called their country Scotia-Minor; and carried on occasional warfare with the Picts and other tribes of Caledonia. The religious establishment of Iona is of Hibernian, not of Caledonian, origin; it was by Irish ecclesiastics that its services were maintained for centuries; and the first kings interred within its consecrated limits were those of the Dalriadic^m race. About the middle of the ninth century, one of the kings of this line, Kenneth the son of Alpin, vanquished the Picts,ⁿ who occupied the central and elevated parts of the modern Highlands. Caledonia thus became united under one sovereign; and as the ancient name Scotia had been superseded and nearly forgotten in Hibernia, the whole of North Britain was called Scotland^o from its conquerors of the south-west. The veil which concealed the early history of Scotland has been thrown back several centuries by the researches of modern historians; the doubtful limit between fact and fiction is far away in comparison with what it was in the days of Robertson; the Annals of Ireland and the Sagas of the North throw much light on the shires which lie next their respective countries; and doubtful facts in the histories of those countries are illustrated in turn by a reference to the records respecting Scotland. There is a concurrence of facts and testimonies, giving us almost as strong moral certainty as we can either expect or require, that Kenneth was the lineal representative of Fergus the son of Ere,

j "The children of Chonaire, the gentleman
 Raised the strong Irish.
 Three sons of Ere, the son of Eeachach the great,
 The three got the blessing of Patrick;
 Possessed Alban the great likewise,
 LOARN, FERGUS, and ANGUS.
 Ten years LOARN flourished
 In the government of West Albany;
 After LOARN a space likewise
 Seven and twenty years FERGUS,"

ALBANIO DUAN.

FERGUS filius ERIC fuit primus qui de semine Chonaire suscepit regnum Albanie, i. e. a monte Drumalban usque ad mare Hibernie et ad Inch Gall,

CHRONICA REGUM SCOTTON.

^k Knock-Fergus or Knock-Fergus (the hill of Fergus) Craik-Fergus, Carrickfergus, or briefly, Carrick (the rock of Fergus).

^l Limited by the districts of Moidart, Loch Aber, (the lake of the STRANGERS) and Breadalbane, as well as by the inlets of the ocean.

^m "Kinath MacAlpin sepultus in Yona insula, ubi tres filii Ere, scilicet, Fergus, Loarn, et Finnegus sepulti fuerant."

Reg. St. And.

ⁿ "Kinath MacAlpin 16 an. super Scotos regnavit, destructis Pictis. dcccxxxvii Cinadius filius Alpin primus Scottorum rexit feliciter istam, ann. xxvi, Pictaviam. Pictavia autem a Pictis est nominata, quos Cinadius delevit.....Iste vero biennio antequam veniret Pictaviam, Dalriete regnum suscepit."

Chronica Pictorum. Ritson.

^o The Chronicle of Melrose, comprising the CHRONICON ELEGIACUM, contains the following entries:—"843 Obiit Alpinus Rex Scottorum cui successit Kined filius ejus, de quo dicitur:

'Primus in Albania fertur regnare Kined filius,
 Filius Alpini, proelia multa gerens.
 Expulsis Pictis regnavit octo his annis:
 Atque Fortemet mortuus ille fuit;'

Iste vocatus est REX PRIMUS, non quia fuit, sed quia primus Leges Scotticorum instituit, quos vocant Leges MacAlpin."—"The 'Fortemet' mentioned is Forteviot in the valley of Strathern, Perthshire, where the principal palace of the Pictish Kings was situated. In the eleventh century, Malcolm Canmore still maintained a summer residence here."

and the lineal ancestor of Malcolm Canmore ^p from whom our Plantagenet kings are descended. The last successor of these, whose throne was north of the Tweed,—James VI. of Scotland, and I. of England,—is the father of our present Royal line; so that Queen Victoria traces an authentic descent from the petty chieftains furnished by these two counties fourteen centuries ago.

The tourist from other lands may laugh, if he will, at the unlettered guides, on our northern coasts—who tell him of monuments piled by the giants, and a pathway beneath the tides of the ocean for the mighty men of Dalriada to hold intercourse with their brethren in the Western Isles. The wildest legend or fable may have a fact at the bottom of it; the myths of Assyria, Egypt, Greece, Rome and Scandinavia, embalm the events of true history; and why should we expect the legend of an Irish peasant to be an exception to that which is elsewhere a rule? The vivid fancies of an imaginative people clothe their heroes with such qualities as are most popular at the time, in the effort to make them mere “mortal Gods;” but to the inquirer after truth, the most remarkable tales respecting them, consist of the naked facts of true history, recorded without apology or exaggeration.

III. IMPORTANCE OF THE DISTRICT.

WHEN a Prime Minister states, that of all parts of the United Kingdom, Ireland is his “great difficulty,” the Province of Ulster is an understood exception. It is there that the people of Anglo-Saxon ancestry are found in greatest numbers, and that the modes of thought and habits of action bear the closest resemblance to those which are found in Great Britain. There, is the stronghold of the United Church of England and Ireland; and there also are found the numerous Presbyterian communities which claim proximate or remote relationship to the Established Church of Scotland—In Ulster, too, partly as a consequence, and partly as a collateral fact, law and order are respected, life and property are secure. The wheels of commerce and social life move smoothly on; allowing for slight exceptional cases, property and population maintain a steady increase; and the visitor of enlarged views finds that, as in Scotland, a soil which was naturally unproductive has nourished a population of high promise. In short, except geographically, Ulster is not Irish at all. The Austrian stigmatises the term “Germany” as a “mere geographical expression;” but to the Ethnologist and the man of general intelligence, it conveys a distinct idea of a definite thing; and similarly, our own interesting Province may be regarded as an outlying parish in the diffused but interesting dominions which brother Jonathan calls “*Anglo-Saxon-dom*.”

Now,—what Ulster is to Ireland,—Down and Antrim are to Ulster. Within their limits, every favourable influence exists in the greatest force, and the elements of civilization and progress have arrived at the greatest maturity. For three centuries, the history of Ulster, and in a less degree of the whole

^p “Malcolm (Canmore), son of Donchad, (i.e. Duncan, who was slain by Macbeth,) is the present king. God alone knows how long he is to reign. To the present time of the son of Donchad, the lively-faced, fifty-two

kings of the race of Erc have reigned over Albany, ye learned.”

O'CONNOR'S TRANSLATIONS OF THE ALBANIC DUAN.

island, belongs mainly to these two counties. They lie in the pathway to Scotland, from which the largest tide of immigration flowed; and they opened their arms to the gallant adventurers of England, who risked danger and difficulty in the permanent purchase of title and estate. Whenever blood has flowed in Ulster, whether for the defence of civil liberty or in the deadly feuds of race and creed, the fields of Antrim and Down have been moistened; and in guarding their own hearths and homes as well as in affording more than a fair proportion for the public service, their sons have never been found wanting. The walls of Derry, it is true, are beyond their limits, and there is no portion of their soil watered by the Boyne; but containing, as they do, the capital of the province, they maintained an onward and upward struggle permanently, such as others are deservedly celebrated for exhibiting in a single act.—It could not be expected that any part of the province would be beyond the tides of good or evil influence which have ebbed and flowed within this district: but in some they were felt but slightly, and in others only as the ripple of the exhausted wave.

One reason for the variety of population which these two counties contain, is the fact that they were always regarded as a sort of sanctuary. The Huguenot of the Seine felt that he might thank God and take courage, not only in Portarlinton, but on the banks of the Lagan. The persecuted Cameronian, fleeing from the enemy or the avenger, hung up his claymore in peace, in a farm-house of Ahoghill or Ballyeaston. The crest-fallen Cavalier in the days of Cromwell, and the stern Puritan in the days of "the merry monarch," pledged their respective toasts without molestation, in Dromore, Carrickfergus, or Ballymena. And later still, the songs of the expatriated Jacobites were sung over the loom and the plough, by those who little knew what inflammable materials they were handling, "while George III. was king." Meeting for purposes of common industry, differences of opinion were subjected to the operation of a tacit truce; and a common danger, when it occurred, sometimes saw them present to it a firm and united front. When the guns of Thurot in 1760, and those of Paul Jones in 1778, woke the echoes around Belfast Lough, they acted as a call to arms of the people in the neighbouring district. Many a "village Hampden" who found a new home in the Western States of America, and many a grey-haired patriarch on the plains of Australia, has secured the breathless attention of an humble auditory, as he related with pride, how his father rushed to the mustering at the "Maze Course," or in the market-place of Newtownards. Even the minister of peace was determined not to inherit the curse of Meroz; "for in the van^b of those who acknowledged his influence, he exhorted them to defend their blessings and privileges, in language which savoured less of earth than the well-known injunction^c of the Protector.

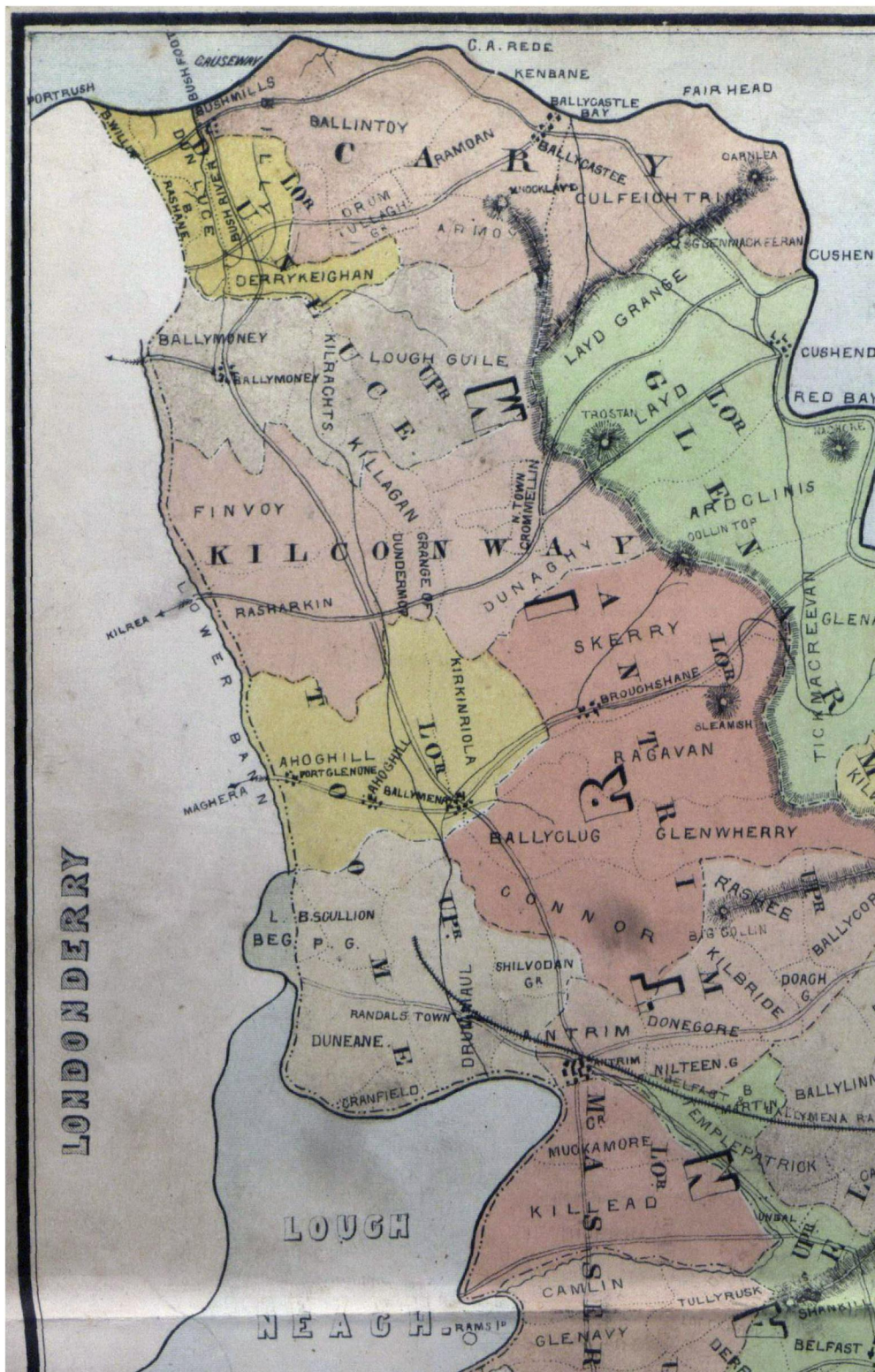
It would be foreign to the purpose of this sketch,—which is itself only secondary to the general subject,—to detail with any degree of minuteness the various points in which these two counties are entitled to pre-eminence. It may be sufficient to mention, as suggestive to the reader, that in all

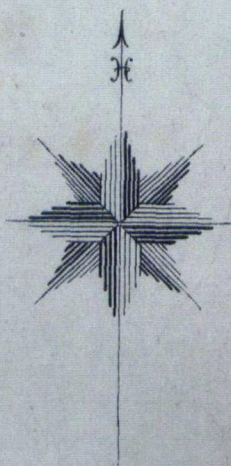
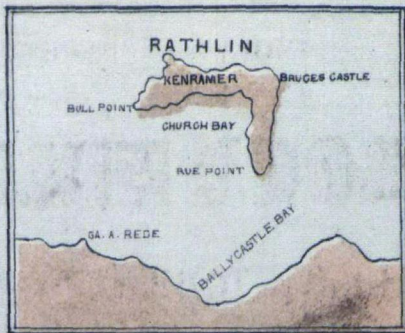
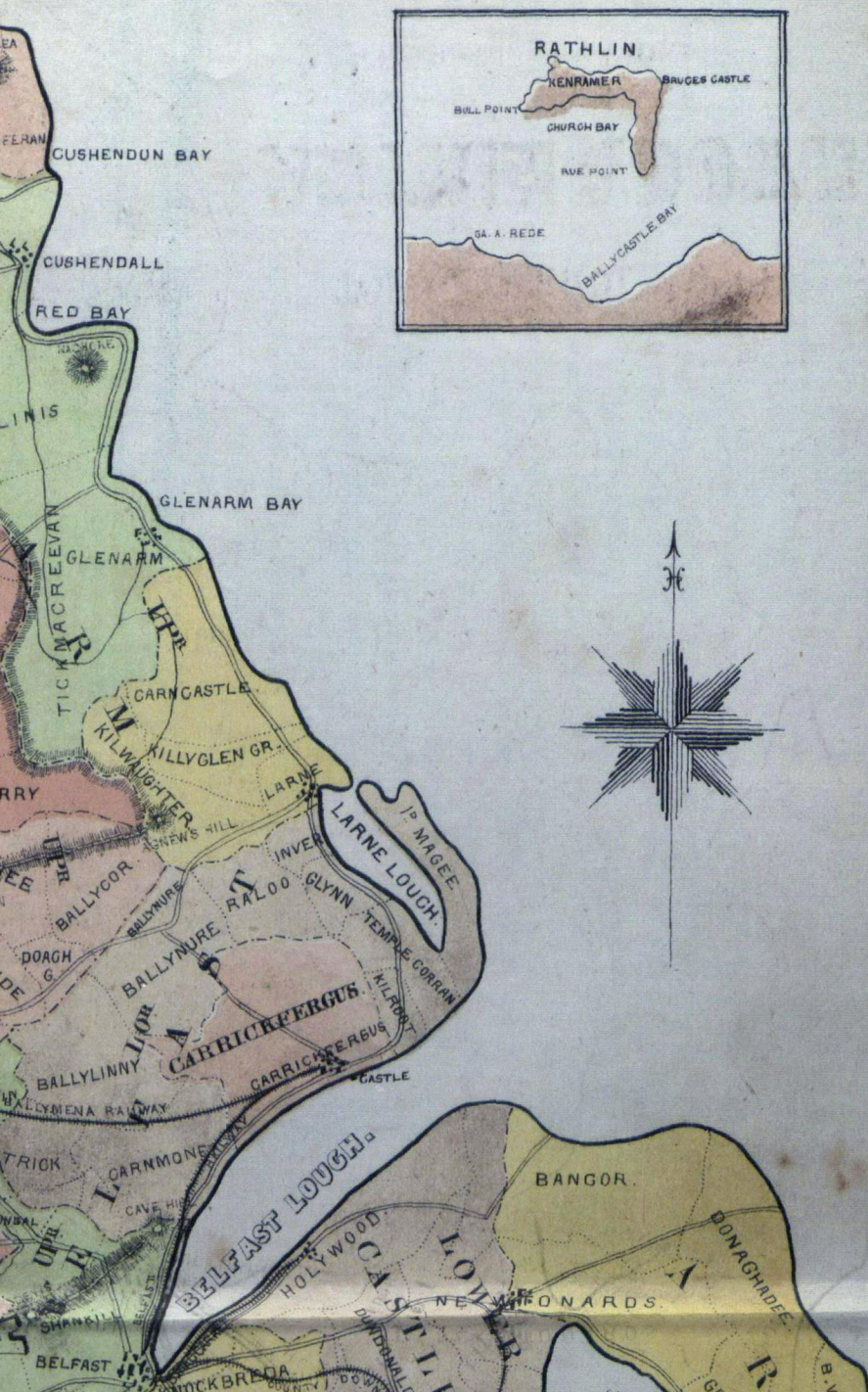
* Judges v. 23.

^b The writer ventures to mention, as an example, his own grand-sire; a man of the most humble piety yet of

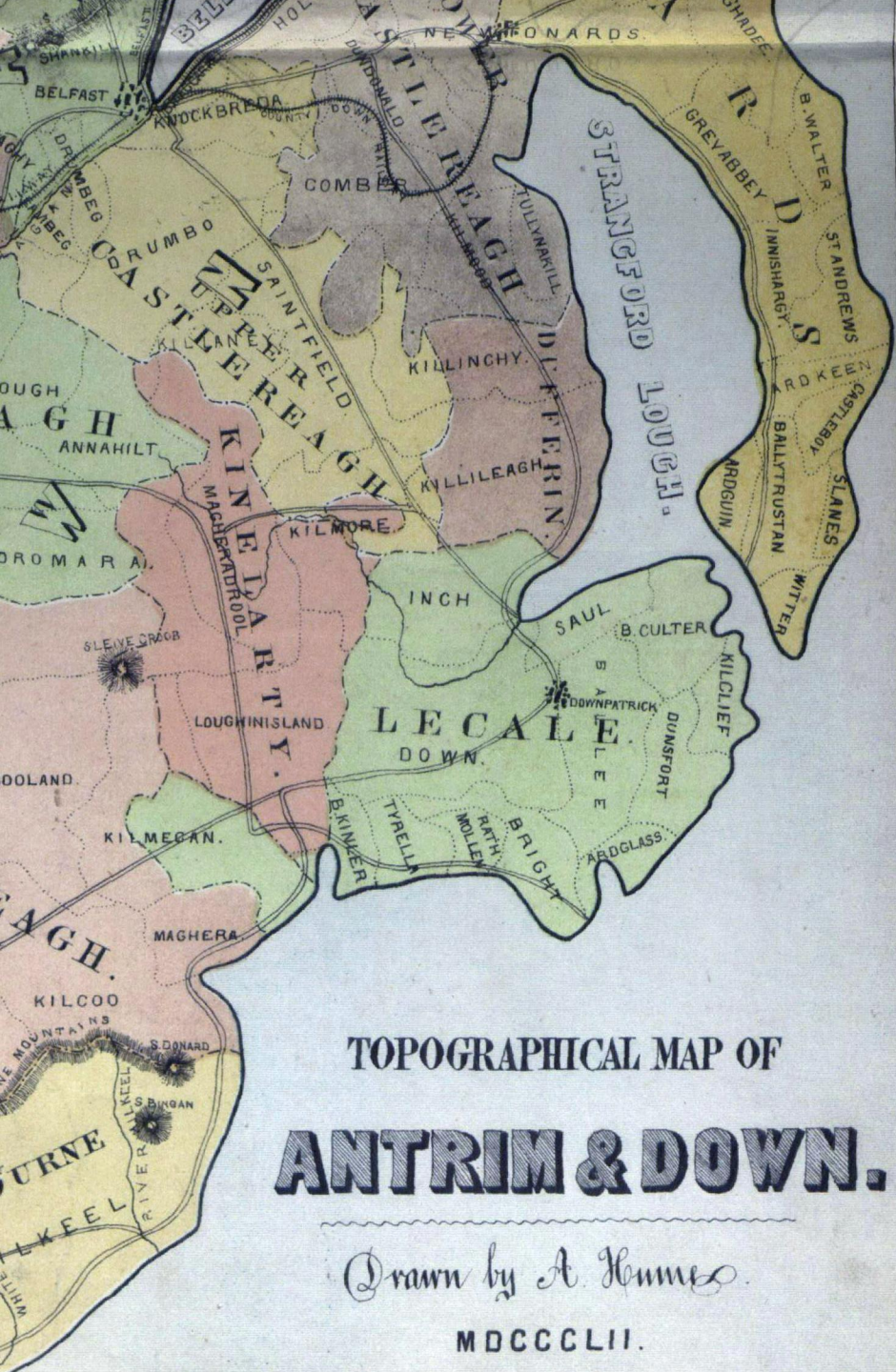
undoubted courage.

^c "Trust in God, boys, and keep your powder dry."









TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP OF
ANTRIM & DOWN.

Drawn by A. Hunter.

MDCCCLII.

W. J. HAMMOND & CO. LITH. LIVERPOOL.

that indicates clearness of head, soundness of heart, and determination of purpose, they hold a foremost place. The calendar at the Assizes and general Gaol deliveries shows a comparative absence of crime; though general diffusion of knowledge, and the abundance of employment, in part account for this.—The favourable condition of what the French call “Primary Education” is shown by the reports of the Commissioners of National Education, the Church Education Society, and the Sunday School Society for Ireland; the schools of all of which are numerous. For communicating a high grade of education, many excellent schools have been established since the Royal Belfast Academical Institution was founded; and for professional education, Queen’s College in Belfast is, perhaps, more practically useful than those of Cork and Galway united. Nor is it merely within the range of the educational circles that we may look for the extended diffusion of useful knowledge; many of those who are permanently engaged in the avocations of business have obtained a degree of deserved celebrity, of which the mere man of letters might be proud.—The manufacture of both cotton and linen lies within an irregular circle, of which Belfast is the centre. The plain linens of Lisburn and Belfast, the diapers and damasks are known over the world; some of the country towns, especially in the county Down, are famous for delicate embroidery; and the cambric handkerchiefs of Lurgan and Portadown,—tied with a beautiful tri-coloured thread and enclosed in elegant boxes,—are currently sold in England and the United States, as of French manufacture.—The mention of linen and cotton suggests Agriculture, in the growth of the material for the one, and Commerce, in the importation of that of the other. Rivals, but not antagonists, these two subjects have both made great progress of late years. The supporters of the one can refer with honest pride to the establishment of the Royal Flax Society; and those of the other to the improved harbour, the straightened channel, and increased tonnage at the port of Belfast.—But far above all these details is the indescribable spirit of the people. It makes the landlords in Down and Antrim a pattern to the whole country, and explains why the Scoto-Irish emigrants in America are distinguished from what Fynes Morrison calls the “meere Yrish.” It has caused cultivation to creep slowly but gradually up the mountain side, so that game has now hardly a cover; it has shown itself in the numerous institutions for every charitable purpose; and it has exhibited its capabilities in almost rebuilding the principal parts of the town of Belfast, within the last seven or eight years.

IV. TOPOGRAPHICAL OUTLINE.

THE two counties of Down and Antrim are situated on the East of Ulster, and therefore on the North-east of Ireland. The former is strictly on the eastern side of the island; the latter is one of the three that reach to the north, and therefore belongs properly to that division. Between them lies the Lough of Belfast, anciently known as Carrickfergus Bay; as if the angle had been rudely broken off which terminated their mutual extension.

They are separated from the adjacent counties, and from each other, by boundaries which are partly

natural and partly artificial. Thus, if we run up the western side, we find the Town and Liberties of Coleraine, naturally in Antrim, but artificially in Londonderry. The Lower Bann, which is elsewhere the western border of the county, here flows through Londonderry alone. The western boundary of Down, which separates it from Armagh, may be said to be artificial throughout; though the Newry river, and the canal which unites it with the Bann, practically constitute the boundary for nearly twenty miles. Before reaching Lough Neagh, the Upper Bann flows through a portion of Armagh; thus separating the Barony of Oneiland East,—including the town of Lurgan, which more naturally belongs to Down. From the aqueduct near Moira, where the Belfast and Lough Neagh canal crosses the Lagan, the latter to its embouchure is the boundary between the two counties themselves; higher up, the canal, following the natural line of levels, like that of Newry, may be said to form the remainder of their separation.

The great divisions of *Shires*,—which, since the time of Alfred, have been known as *Hundreds* in England,—are in Ireland called *Baronies*. The term “Shire” itself (i.e. a division or portion cut off) is quite unknown in the island; “County” being the only recognised term. It is highly probable that this fact is not the result of mere accident, but a link in a chain of causes and effects.—The enlightened Alfred, and the peaceful Edward, though not free from the excitements of their country and their age, spoke of the union of *Tithings* into a “*Hundred*” as a matter of mere number, and of their concentration in a *Shire*, as a fact of convenience. But the conquering race who visited this island, and who, like Earl Warrenne, won and maintained their possessions by the sword, spoke more naturally of divisions which indicated dominion. The smaller, “Barony,” was the domain suitable for the rule and title of a Baron; the larger, “County” was adapted to the state and title of of an Earl.^b

Several of the Baronies are sub-divided for the sake of convenience, into Upper and Lower districts. In Antrim, for example, Upper Toome extends to Lough Neagh, while Lower Toome is farther down on the right bank of the Bann. In the same county, we also find Lower Dunluce on the sea coast near the Causeway, and Upper Dunluce more inland in the valley of the Bann. In Down, also, Upper Iveagh is among the mountains; Lower Iveagh is in the lowlands. Upper Lecale comprises those parishes that lie, as it were, on the skirts of the Mourne range of hills; and Lower Lecale those that are more completely in the district of the “marl-pits.” This last division is but little known, and of no more than local importance. A little examination will serve to show, however, that all these examples of the appropriateness of the terms “Upper” and “Lower” are merely accidental coincidences, if not positive exceptions to the rule. The residents in the two counties are frequently struck with the apparent anomalous use of names; the *higher* districts being generally called “Lower,” and the *lower* districts, “Upper.” The English reader will explain this at once, as merely a Hibernicism,

^a Twelve Tithings made a Hundred, i.e. 120 villages. This has ever constituted what is still called the *long hundred*.”

^b In the United Kingdom, Earl (*comes*) and Count

are synonymous terms; and their relation is still preserved in the words *Count-ess* and *Vis-Count*. On the Continent, the term *Count* has a more general signification.

an "Irish bull;" but, after proving the curious fact, it is worth an inquiry whether there be not a better explanation.

The barony of *Lower* Glenarm, in Antrim, hangs upon the steep and lofty sides of Knocklayd. It rises to the height of 1810 feet, the greatest elevation known in the county; and nearly nine-tenths of its area lie at the height of 500 feet above the level of the sea. In some places, so sudden is the descent that this line is, for miles, distant only a few perches from the water's edge; and one of the most picturesque roads in the kingdom, exhibiting great efforts and triumphs of engineering skill, is bounded, for a considerable distance, by an almost perpendicular cliff on one side, while it is covered with the spray of the tide on the other. The barony of *Upper* Glenarm approaches the level shore of Larne Lough, and only about half its area lies at an elevation of 500 feet. It is worthy of remark that this is the portion which adjoins *Lower* Glenarm and *Lower* Antrim, and which lies upon the slope of the hills belonging to them. The barony of *Upper* Massareene lies along the flat country, from the valley of the Lagan on one side, to the shores of Lough Neagh on the other. It is a sort of extended plain, including much that, until the present century, was mere marsh and turf-bog. *Lower* Massareene, on the contrary, stretches along the hills which form the western slope of Devis, until it reaches Lough Neagh. About one third of it lies at the height of 500 feet; while there is less than one-twentieth of *Upper* Massareene at that elevation. *Lower* Antrim lies among the wild and desolate hill tops of Skerry, Racavan, and Glen-Wherry; while *Upper* Antrim brings us to the more inhabited and inhabitable region of Antrim, Donegore and Doagh. The baronies of *Upper* and *Lower* Belfast are nearly equal. The former possesses a greater amount of plain country along the valley of the Lagan, but, it also contains the highest districts, round Devis and the Cave-Hill; the latter does not rise to the same height, but possesses a much larger acreable extent at an elevation of 500 feet.

In Down the same anomaly exists. *Lower* Castlereagh, which stretches across the isthmus from Comber to Holywood, rises to the height of 720 feet; while *Upper* Castlereagh contains a series of undulating hillocks the highest of which, Ouchley, only reaches an elevation of 615. In the barony of Ards, the *Upper* division comprehends that portion where the extremity sinks gradually into the sea; the *Lower* division comprehends Conlig, and the whole range of bleak hills connected with it.—The barony of *Upper* Iveagh is sub-divided; the *Lower* portion containing the whole of the mountainous districts of Kilcoo, Kilmegan, Clonduff, Drumgooland, and Drumballyroney; while the *Upper* portion contains those parishes that lie towards Newry, Warrenpoint, and Banbridge. *Lower* Iveagh is also sub-divided. Its *Upper* part lies along the banks of the Lagan and Bann; its *Lower* part contains the only portions of the entire barony that reach an elevation of 500 feet.

The explanation of all this is, that the terms were not fixed by the local inhabitants, nor with relation to the Assize-town of each county, but by authority, and in relation to Dublin. The Metropolis of every county is figuratively a *head*, and provincial districts are the *members*; so that we are said to go *up* to the former, and *down* to the latter. Thus, we go *up* to London, which lies in a basin, and

is connected with the sea by a navigable river; we go *down* to the Scottish border, or to the region of Snowdon. In like manner in Ireland, we go *up* to Dublin, which is on the sea-side, from Croagh-Patrick or Mangerton; we go *down* to Knock-Layd or Slieve-Donard. If, therefore, we take the Metropolis as our point of view, even the apparent anomaly vanishes. In every case, the district known as "Upper" is nearer to Dublin in geographical position, or at least by the ordinary route for reaching it; and that which is called "Lower" is more remote. The apparent correctness of the appellation in the case of the Toomes and Dunluces in the one county, or the Iveaghs in the other, has really nothing to do with either mountains or rivers. If the Bann flowed in the opposite direction, the one set of names would still be correct, in the sense in which they are used; and so would the others, if the mountains of Mourne were to subside and exhibit a level surface like the plain of Lecale.

The Ecclesiastical arrangements differ in some respects from the Civil ones. There are three Dioceses which are almost co-extensive with the two counties, but embracing a few additional parishes. The Dioceses of Down and Connor existed distinct from each other from about A.D. 500 to 1441, that is for a period of nine centuries; and as their union took place before the Reformation, they are united at present, in the arrangements both of the Established and the Roman Catholic Churches. Dromore existed as a separate Diocese from about 550 to 1842, or during thirteen centuries; it is still so in the Roman Catholic Church; but in the United Church of England and Ireland it forms part of the Union of "Down and Connor and Dromore," in accordance with the Church Temporalities Act of 1833.

The boundary line of the Diocese of Dromore coincides with the County boundary near Lough Neagh; then making a circuit north of Aghalee and south of Hillsborough, it includes Annahilt, Magheradrool, Drumgooland, and Kilmegan. This includes the nominally "exempt jurisdiction of Newry and Mourne," of which the Earl of Kilmorey is the lay Lord-Abbot. The Diocese of Dromore also includes the portion of Armagh cut off by the upper Bann, and which, therefore, naturally belongs to the county Down. In this is situated Seagoe, reaching to within a mile of Portadown; Moyntaghs, a wilderness of bog on the shore of Lough Neagh; and Shankill, in a portion of which, belonging to Down, the Belfast canal joins Lough Neagh. The only parish in Antrim which belongs to this Diocese is Aghalee; which, with the two parishes of Aghagallon and Magheramesk in the Diocese of Connor and county of Antrim, forms a Union. A Roman Catholic tradition partly explains this exceptional fact. It is said that Aghalee was formerly like Moyntaghs, and uninhabited; and that it was united to the Diocese of Dromore as a circumstance of no practical importance.

The Diocese of Down comprises the remainder of the County of that name; except portions of Blaris (i.e. Lisburn), Lambeg, and Drumbeg, which lie across the county boundary, but are included in Connor. In each Diocese of the union there is but one Archdeaconry, which is, of course, co-extensive with it; and it is a curious fact that the Archdeacon of Down, who is *ex officio* Rector of Hillsborough, resided till 1842, in the parish adjacent to the Bishop of Dromore. A design once existed to bring the two episcopal residences into closer proximity. The first Marquis of Downshire, a man

of great public spirit, who died in 1794, was the contemporary of Bishop Dickson of Down and Connor. When his Lordship had erected the magnificent church of Hillsborough, which is his noblest monument, he was desirous to induce the Bishop to fix his residence in that town. With the Consistorial court at Lisburn, (only three miles distant,) there would certainly have been concentration of offices,—though not at the most convenient point.

The Diocese of Connor is as large as Down and Dromore together. It includes the whole county Antrim, (Aghalee excepted,) small portions of Down, as we have seen, and part of Londonderry.—Following the natural boundary, as the Diocese of Dromore does, it includes Coleraine and Agherton or Ballyaghan, both of which lie wholly within the “Liberties of Coleraine.” Within the same limits lie also the principal portions of the parishes of Ballyrashane, or St. John’s Town, and Ballywillin, or Milltown; the remaining portions of which are in Antrim. The parish of Ballyscullion, lying west of Lough Beg and the Bann river, is mainly in the county Derry, yet in the Diocese of Connor. A small portion of it, together with the Grange of Ballyscullion, is situated in Antrim.

Parishes are also ecclesiastical divisions, though used for civil purposes. In general they are well known to the inhabitants; and therefore, in the maps which illustrate this paper, and in others yet to follow, their limits have been carefully indicated. For the sake of giving a definite meaning to the term “Parish,” the Maps of the Ordnance Survey have been followed, as in Griffith’s Valuation.

Since neither Dioceses nor Parishes conform to the limits of Counties,—for reasons which need not now be examined,—it is not to be expected that the latter will be regulated by divisions of a subordinate kind. Accordingly, we find that many parishes are situated partially in each of two baronies, while others which lie near a union of baronial boundaries, are,—as Dr. Barrett would have said, “quartered into three halves.”

In Antrim, the Parishes of Billy, Killagan, Antrim, Shankill (Belfast,) Derriaghy, and Templepatrick, are examples of those which extend to two baronies; while Ahoghill, which is mainly in Lower Toome, embraces portions of Kilconway and Upper Toome. Ballymoney is mainly in Upper Dunluce, but a portion is in Kilconway; while a small portion, about one twenty-fourth of the whole, crosses the County boundary into the Liberties of Coleraine, and is thus part of Londonderry. There is one interesting coincidence, which, though not legally and formally, is yet conventionally and practically observed within this county. The “County of the town of Carrickfergus” is co-extensive with the parish of the same name; and of course forms part of the Diocese of Connor.

In Down, the irregularity is still greater. In the barony of Dufferin, there is not a single complete parish. In that of Kinelarty, there is one complete parish, and there are portions of five others. It may be sufficient to mention the following as examples of parishes that lie in two baronies,—Aghaderg, Annahilt, Bangor, Blaris, Comber, Garvaghy, Killileagh, Kilmore, Magheradrool, Newtownards, and Seapatriek. Dromara is almost equally divided between Kinelarty, Upper Iveagh, and Lower Iveagh. Kilmegan is partially in Lecale, Upper Iveagh, and Kinelarty. Killinchy is in Lower Castlereagh, Kinelarty, and Dufferin. The parish of

Newry comprehends the whole of the ancient Lordship of Newry, together with the townland of Shannaghan, in Upper Iveagh, lying between the points of the parishes of Garvaghy, Annaclone, Drumballyrone, and Drumgooland. There is one remarkable coincidence in this county also. The Barony of Mourne, or "half barony" as it is sometimes called, is seventy-five square miles in extent; the parish of Kilkeel is co-extensive with it.

The names of parishes are usually those of Townlands within their respective limits; each being usually named from that one which contains the church, or village, or both. The name of the village often supplants that of the ancient townland, and sometimes both preserve collaterally a dubious claim to notice. A few remarks on names may not be uninteresting.

In the parish of Saintfield, the old name of Tonaghnieve has disappeared; but there can be little doubt that that was the name of the townland originally; especially as the fraternal name of Tonaghmore still survives. It is not improbable that the ancient name of Dromore parish was Ballymagennis, from the townland of that name; but the name of the town has naturally superseded it. In Hillsborough parish, the ancient name Camlin or Crumlin has long ceased to possess any official existence. It is still, however, traditionally known in connexion with the ancient burial-ground,^d now forming part of the lawn of Hillsborough Castle,^e and its position is marked by the well-known Kate-Rush^f tree. The name Shankill, derived from a townland which included a burying-place, is more than obsolescent; except to the inquirer, it may be regarded as obsolete. The town of Belfast constitutes so important a portion of the whole parish that its name has taken precedence; and instead even of the townland of Shankill we read "Edenderry."

There are other instances in which towns or villages are slowly but surely superseding the old names. Kirkinriola, so called from a townland, is giving place naturally to Ballymena; and Tickmacreevan, the name of which as a townland has been supplanted, is likely also to be supplanted as a parish by the name Glenarm. Blaris parish is named from an obscure townland in the County Down; and Lisnagarvey, an equally obscure one in the county Antrim, gave name to a town within its limits. The latter was nearly burnt down, and was thence called *Lis-burn*; and the little parish being united with one on the other side of the Lagan,^g the whole took the name of Blaris. The little parish of Knock, in Lower Castlereagh, named from a townland, was united with the larger one of Breda, in Upper Castlereagh,^h named also from a townland. A village built in the latter is called Newton-Breda, but the united parish is invariably called by the joint name Knock-Breda. The

^d The Church was removed to its present position in 1662, but occasional interments took place in Crumlin burying-ground for nearly thirty years after.

^e Not the Fort or ancient Castle, but the Marquis of Downshire's residence.

^f An idiotic girl called Kate, who generally amused herself by plaiting rushes and wandering through the country, had acquired the familiar soubriquet of "Kate Rush." One day she accompanied a funeral procession

to the old burial-ground; and on leaving, stuck a green branch, which she carried, at the head of the grave. It became a large spreading tree, and was long regarded with much interest by the people.

^g This serves to explain how a parish can lie in two Counties.

^h This shows how a parish may lie in two adjoining Baronies.

parish of Magheradrool is named from a townland in which there is an ancient burying-ground; but the name is likely to be superseded by another word of Irish origin, viz.: Ballynahinch, the name of the town. On the same principle, it is not unlikely that the parish of Seapatrik may yet be known by the name Banbridge; that Drumaul may become Randalstown; Ballyphilip, Portaferry; Kilmegan, Castletwellan; Ramoan, Ballycastle; Aghaderg, Loughbrickland; &c.—In some instances, but they are not numerous, parishes seem never to have been named from townlands. Thus Loughinisland, Annahilt, and Moira, have no minor representatives. Moira (also written Moyrath, Moiragh, St. James of Moira, and Magh-Rath,) is a name known for more than 1,200 years; yet the name of the townland in which the village is situated is Carnalbanagh, and the parish was only constituted from portions of Magheralin and Hillsborough in 1725.

St. John's Town, vulgarly "Syngenstown," is the name of one parish in Down, and another partly in Antrim. The former is otherwise called from a townland, Castleboy; the latter, as we have seen, is a translation of Ballyrashane. Dundonald or Dundonnell is otherwise called Kirk-Donald or Kirk-Donnell,—vulgarly "Cur-Donal." The prefix in the former name is evidently derived from a large rath (Dun) near the village, and in the latter from the position of the church as described by the Scotch immigrants. The name of the townland in which the village stands is Church Quarter.

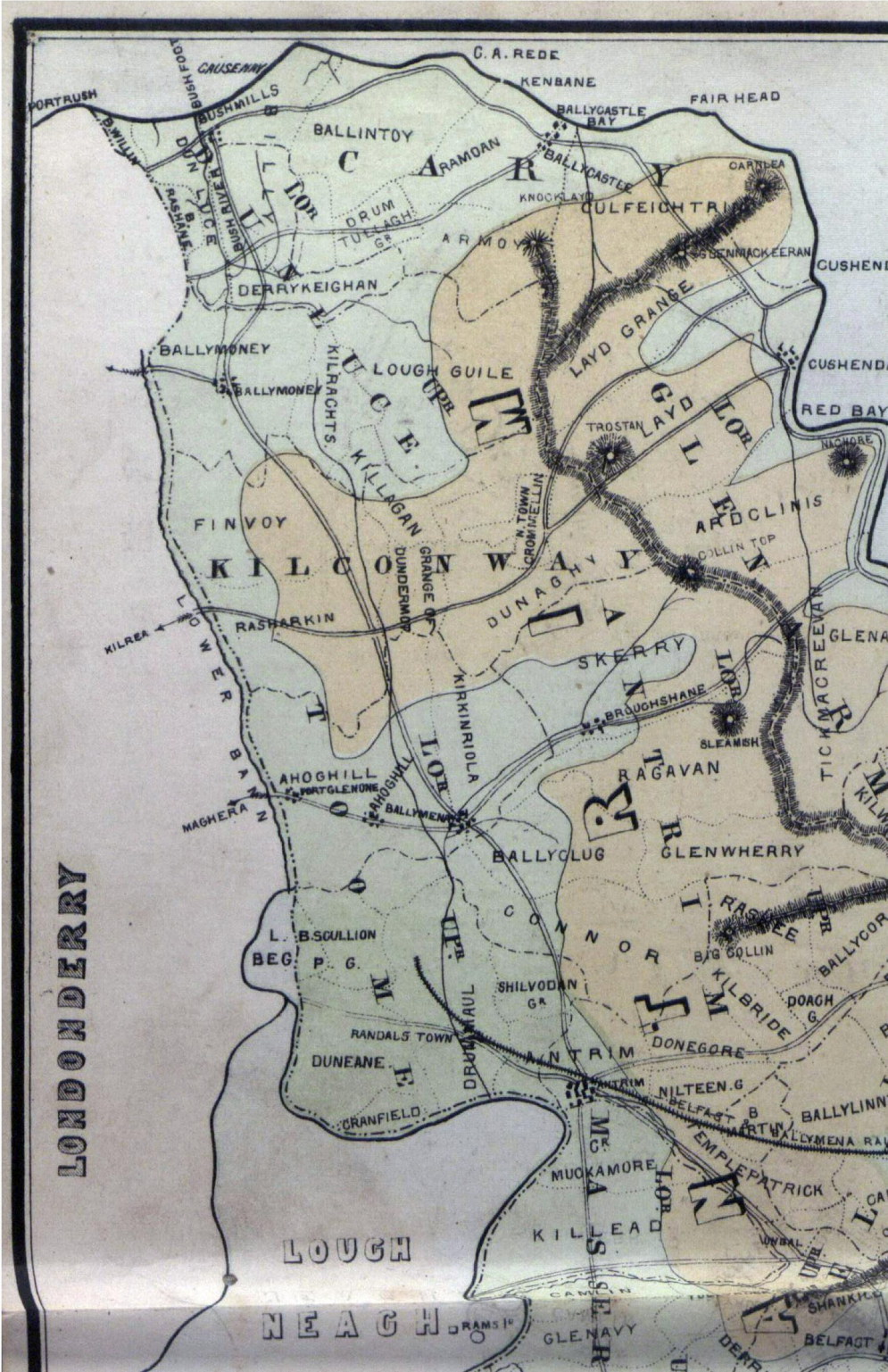
The *Townlands* in Ireland are equivalent to the *Townships* in England; in Scotland the same purpose is generally served by a minuter naming of farms and houses. The townlands are civil divisions; but in one respect they coincide with the ecclesiastical; for all parishes are composed of several of them complete. Their names are very peculiar; in short the history of their names might almost be made a history of the country. But we must not anticipate a branch of the subject to be treated of hereafter.

A curious fact has often been noticed respecting the degree of familiarity with the names of the townlands. In the districts where population is dense, and especially in the Presbyterian districts where ecclesiastical divisions are scarcely heard of, men are known by the *townlands* in which they reside; they date their letters from them, and speak of them currently as well-known places. Yet they may not be known beyond the next market-town; indeed the names of parishes, when not connected with towns or villages, are often utterly unknown to the people of the county. On the contrary, in the districts where farms are large and population thin, or in the districts where churchmen mainly are found, the *parishes* are the local divisions that are known almost exclusively. In the parish of Killaney in Down, and elsewhere, it would be no difficult matter to find a hundred men of average intelligence, not one of whom could tell the name of his parish if he were put to his oath. In the Union of Magheramesk in Antrim, it would be easy to find a similar number, not one of whom could venture to swear to the name of the townland in which he was "bred and born."

V. PHYSICAL PECULIARITIES.

THE mountains of Ireland are peculiarly situated, lying in groups or tufts round the sea-coast ; while the centre of the country is hollow, in general little diversified by elevations, and in some parts containing a large amount of bog. The ranges of hills in these two counties exhibit the general tendency ; the mountains of Down occupying one distinct portion of the map, and those of Antrim another. Between them lies a considerable tract of level country, effecting, externally, a complete separation between them. In Down the hills assume more completely the appearance of mountains, and rise to the greatest elevation ; in Antrim the elevated ground occupies a wider area. In area, Antrim is the larger of the two, as it appears to the eye on the map ; if, however, the fertile land only be reckoned, or the soil under actual cultivation, Down is the larger. In round numbers, Antrim contains 760 thousand acres, (including 50 thousand of Lough Neagh ;) but only 470 thousand, or less than two-thirds, are under cultivation. Down contains more than 600 thousand acres ; of which more than 500 thousand, or nearly five-sixths, are under cultivation.

In Antrim, the greatest elevation attained is in part of the Knocklayd range. This may be said to commence almost at the coast near Ballycastle ; while its ridge forms the natural boundaries of the parishes of Ramoan, Armoy, and Loughguile, on the west side, and of Culfeightrin, the Grange of Layd, and the parish of Layd on the east. The crest of the hill, specially known as Knocklayd, lies at an angle on the borders of Ramoan and Armoy, and attains the elevation of 1685 feet. The barony boundary between Lower and Upper Glenarm on the one side, and Kilconway and Lower Antrim on the other, runs in general along the highest portions ; it may thus be regarded as the *water-shed* of the county, separating the streams which flow directly to the sea, from those that reach it indirectly by first mingling their waters with the Bann. In the parish of Layd, nearly opposite to the northern limit of Dunaghy, Trostan hill rises to 1810 feet ; farther south, near where Skerry joins both Tickmacreevan and Ardclinis, Collin-Top is 1419 feet high ; and towards the southern extremity of this range, Agnew's Hill, between Glen-Wherry and Kilwaughter, rises to 1558 feet. From the south-western point of Upper Glenarm the elevated land sinks ; and changing its direction, it runs nearly along the northern boundary of Carrickfergus, till it reaches the Cave-hill range, where MacArt's Fort rises to 1140 feet, and Devis, in the same parish, to 1567. On both sides of this elevated line, there are other hills, of the same range of minor elevation, which still keep the general surface of the country at more than 500 feet above the sea. Thus, on the eastern side, Carnlea, near Tor-head, is 1250 feet high ; while in the adjoining parochial district of Layd-Grange is Glenmakeeran, of the height of 1321 feet. In the parish of Ardclinis, within a mile and-a-half of the shore, Nachore attains an elevation of 1180 feet. To the west of the principal range, we meet with the detached top of Sleamish, nearly east of Broughshane, 1437 feet high ; while Big Collin and Wee Collin, near where Glenwherry adjoins the barony of Upper Antrim, attain an elevation respectively of 1160 and 1006 feet. When such high tops occur, and such a breadth of elevated



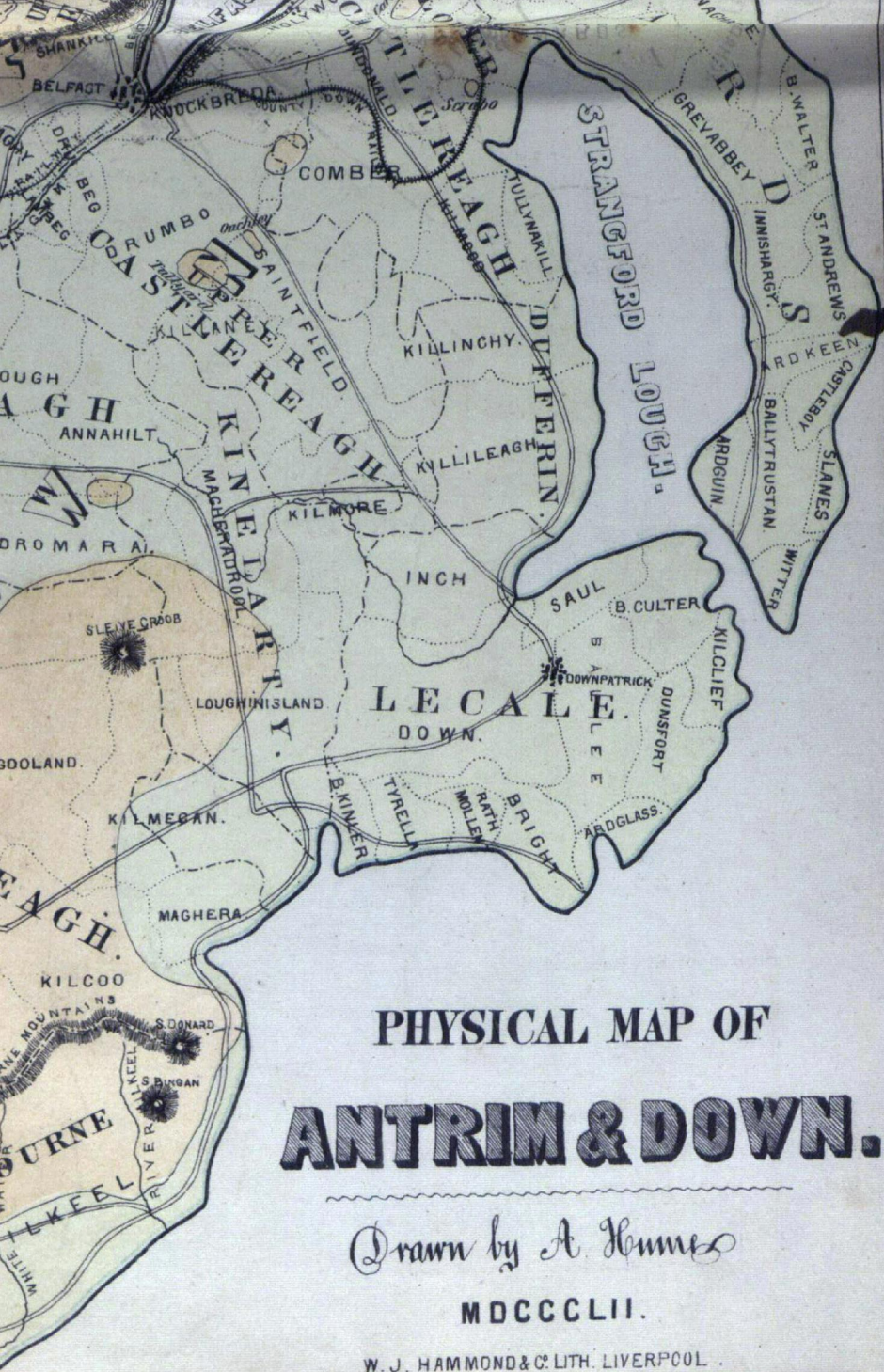
LONDONDERRY

LOUGH

NEAGH







PHYSICAL MAP OF
ANTRIM & DOWN.

Drawn by A. Humes

MDCCCLII.

W. J. HAMMOND & CO. LITH. LIVERPOOL.

land runs through the length of a county which is only thirty miles across, we need not be surprised to find more than a third of its area at an elevation of 500 feet or upwards. When we find the mountains, too, pushing their shoulders almost close to the water's edge, we are prepared to find picturesque vales, the natural continuation of bays from the sea, running up into the interior. Such are actually found at intervals, throughout the whole extent of Upper and Lower Glenarm and the parish of Culfeightrin; and this is just the district which the old inhabitants denominated the *Glynnnes* (i. e. the glens,) when Hugh Boy O'Neill, in the fourteenth century, re-conquered the district from the followers of De Burgo.

The greatest elevation attained in Down is that of Slieve-Donard, 2,796 feet, at the eastern side of the boundary line that separates Mourne from Upper Iveagh; while at the western side of the same boundary, the Eagle Mountain attains an elevation of 2084 feet. The water-shed coincides with the barony boundary, and the declivity of the hills is towards the south. Though this ridge dips rapidly into the sea throughout the whole parish of Kilkeel, one lofty hill, Slieve Bingan, stands out on the side at an elevation of 2449 feet. South of the main line also, but west of the limits of the barony of Mourne, Rosstrevor Mountain or Slieve Bane rises to a height of 1600 feet. On the Iveagh or north side of the water-shed are the smaller mountains known as the Cock and the Hen; and Slieve Snavan or the Creeping Mountain. A long sweep of very rough country, including the whole of the parish of Drumgooland, brings us to another less elevated tract, which may be regarded as a spur or excrescence of the Mourne ridge. The highest point of it, Slieve Croob, lies on the barony boundary, between Kinelarty and Iveagh, and, therefore, on the diocesan boundary between Dromore and Down; and up the sides of this mountain five parishes converge—Drumgooland, Dromara, Magheradrool, Loughinisland and Kilmegan. The whole of the continuous plateau does not occupy more than one fifth of the county, including about eight parishes.

In one respect Down is peculiar, and, in its physical features, differs from Antrim. Its plains are not plains, its slopes are not slopes, and its undulations are not undulations, in the ordinary sense.—It consists, in general, of a series of hillocks, which have been quaintly compared to “wooden bowls inverted, or eggs set in salt.” They may also be compared to gigantic water-worn stones; and the vertical outline of many of them is not unlike the curve of the back of a pig or an elephant. In no fewer than ten instances, single hills, which are quite separated from the principal elevation, and which are geologically known as “hummocks,” attain a height of 500 feet or upwards. We may mention, as examples, Scrabo, near Newtownards; Ouchley, in Saintfield parish; Clogher, on the boundary between Hillsborough and Dromore; and Tullyard, in Drumbo. The elevations which serve to divide the basins of rivers, as we approach the borders of Antrim and Armagh, are sometimes very slight. Lough Neagh is 48 feet above low-water level at Belfast; and the “head-level,” or highest portion of the canal which joins the two, is only 120 feet. Between Moira and Lurgan, the Ulster Railway passes from the valley of the Lagan to that of the Bann by a cutting which is scarcely perceptible; on the bye-road from Hall's-mill,

across the parish of Magherally, the elevation is noticeable, but little more, to either man or horse, at the Black Scull; and the neighbouring hill, where the "Tommy Downshire men" used to meet, is about 500 feet high.

The rivers of both counties are determined by this physical arrangement. To the east of the water-shed of Antrim, a number of small mountain-streams discharge themselves into the sea. To the west of this, the drainage is into the Bann and Lough Neagh; except the Bush, which has an exit of its own at Bush-mills. The Maine-water, guided by some minor elevations on the right bank of the Bann, flows southward into Lough Neagh; the Six-Mile-Water, rising in the angle formed by the northern and western ridges, discharges the streams of both into the lake at Antrim; and the Crumlin-Water divides Upper and Lower Massareene. In Down, the streams from the ridge of Mourne, as the Annalong, Kilkeel, White-Water and Causeway-Water, flow southwards through Kilkeel parish to the sea. The Shimna, on the Iveagh side, flows into Dundrum Bay, at Newcastle; and, north-east of the central elevation, a stream passes Ballynahinch, and, flowing between Downpatrick and Inch, under the name of the Quoile, reaches Strangford Lough. But the two principal rivers are the Lagan and Bann, each of them connected with both counties. They both rise in the Mourne range; and, separating by the inequalities which have been noticed, reach the sea through two tracts of lowland; each becoming a county boundary in its course. It is estimated that the basin of the Lagan contains an area of 227 square miles, the whole of which lies within these two counties; and the Bann and Maine jointly drain an area of 1266 square miles, at least the half of which is in these two counties.

In the lower parts of the country, along the river margins, are to be sought the past and present sites of marshes. The parish of Moyntaghs in Armagh, has its corresponding townland of Moyntághs in Aghagallon; both of which will disappear in time, so that the philologist may have to inquire hereafter for the reason of the name. The Bogs of Kilwarlin, the Maze Moss, Blaris Moor, and many such places, have become fertile fields; and the numerous names, (such as Moss-side, where there is now no moss,) are historical, as well as topographical. It is not, however, on the levels or lowlands, merely, that we are to look for bogs. The well-known "black earth" is found at high elevations, and in immense quantities; sometimes as if the usual "sterner stuff" of the mountain top had become metamorphosed into this spongy material. When it is very light and porous, like heath slightly compressed, it is called "flow moss;" and districts of considerable area are known by the name, as, Duncan's-Flow in Glenwherry, and Mathers's-Flow in Dromore. The parish of Finvoy in Antrim, great part of Skerry, the whole of Newtown-Crommelin, Glenwherry, and other portions of the high district, consist almost exclusively of bog; and the straight lines, which sometimes bound parishes and townlands, —similar to those near Donaghadee in Down,—or which show the directions of roads, form a marked contrast to the graceful curves at other points, and show that the land has been won from the territory of the snipes. In the parish of Skerry, and in numerous other places, the cultivated *oases* are called "islands;" as Island-town, Island-brackey, &c.; and those who have ever seen them will ad-

mit, that the term is not a Hibernicism, but the appropriate application of a figure of speech. In Newtown-Crommelin alone, there are nearly 3000 acres of bog at a height above the level of the sea, ranging from 800 to 950 feet. When about twenty years ago, a vigorous attempt was made to colonize it, the humblest of the people,—though anxious to become landholders on the favourable terms which were offered them,—often fled in dismay from the cheerless solitude of these lofty regions; and the two townlands of Skerry, (otherwise known as Skerry Rabble,) became popularly known as “Scare-the-Devil.” It is curious that the same feeling is not shown in the County Down, at least by a portion of the population. To the remnant of the native Irish, the bog is indispensable; they creep up the mountain-sides, but never move far from it; their food may be scanty and their shelter insufficient, but they welcome the howling of the storm by a roaring peat fire, and cherish a sort of brotherly affection for “thunder and turf.” It is said that in the allotment of spoil before the rebellion of 1798, some of the insurgent chieftains in Down objected to the estates of neighbouring gentlemen falling to them,—“because there was no bog in them.”

In the northern and elevated districts of Antrim there are few Lakes; but throughout the whole of Down they are numerous. The peculiar inequalities of its surface present, in the mountainous districts especially, a number of natural basins; and there are, perhaps, not half-a-dozen parishes in the whole county which do not contain a few acres of water, or give evidence that such has formerly existed. This would be an interesting subject for the pen of the geologist; for there is not a stage of the transition which his science indicates that may not be seen here, from the lake with its pleasure parties and its anglers, to the marl-bed re-converted into a pond by the exigences of agriculture. The principal lakes are Loughinisland, which gives name to a parish; Lough-Island-Reavey in Kilecoo; Ballyward in Drumgooland; Ballyronev and Hunshigo in Drumballyronev; Lough Shark and Lough Brickland in Aghaderg; Cowey, Ballyfinragh, and others without special names in the peninsula of Ards; and several in the parishes of Kilmore, Saintfield, Magheradrool, and Annahilt. The last parish contains one with a floating island. Examples of partial natural reclamation exist at Loughinisland and Inch. The island which gave name to the former is now a peninsula connected with the main land by a marshy isthmus; and as the waters of Quoile do not now flow round Innis Courey, in the latter it has ceased to be an island, except in name. In other instances, from the discharge of water extending the outlet, and the contemporaneous deposition of matter, we find small lakes standing in the midst of bogs, where the natural evidences show that there must once have been extensive sheets of water. Thus Drummaroad lake in the parish of Loughinisland, a small lake north of Seaforde Demesne, Carrowvanny in Saul, and Monteith's Lough in Annalene, are situated each in the midst of a bog. In the last mentioned, the surface of the water is only eight feet below the highest point of the surrounding bog, and the limits of cultivation. In Ballywillwill Demesne there is a lake in the midst of a marsh; and another in Cloghselt, a part of Drumgooland, Lough Kellan, which gives name to a townland in Ballyculter, is part of a very large lake which extended along the parish boundary near Saul and Ballee. In other instances, the large lake of ancient times is represented by se-

veral small modern ones. Thus, Ballyrone lake, connected with a large territory of adjoining bog, represents the waters of the western side; the three Ballyward lakes are near the north-eastern limit; Hunshigo claims kindred with all these on the south; and Gargary on the east. Also, there is strong reason to believe that the lake in Hollymount Demesne, now in the midst of a bog, was at one time connected with the marshes of Downpatrick; and the lake of Ballydugan, which is obviously one of the same sort, may at one time have been a part of the great whole. In Slievenaboley, Drumgooland, and in Drumnakelly, Loughinisland, even the water of the diminished lake has disappeared, and there is merely a marsh in the centre of a bog. Lough Doo in Castleboy is now turf bog at a height of fifty-two feet above the sea; the same may be said of Lough Cock in Drumgooland; while Loughorne, in the Lordship of Newry, has been filled up eleven feet, and its southern half is now a marsh. Lough-adian in Aghaderg is what is called a "blind lough;" and there is another in Magherally which consists, in like manner, of quagmire and turf bog. The Stron' (i.e. strand) near Killough is of a different character, as it is a portion of marsh and moor recovered from the tide; but the numerous marsh-pits of Lecale exhibit, in the most interesting way, the alternating strata of sea-shells and diluvium which have converted them from estuaries or fresh-water lakes into arable land.

The trees, which are still found in large numbers and of various sizes, afford sufficient evidence of the former condition of the face of the country. But farther evidence is afforded by the names of such places as Killinchy-in-the-Woods, and by the numerous places whose names contain the prefix *Kil*, not indicating the position of a "burying-ground," but the situation of a "wood." There is an unbroken tradition too, that wood only was burned in ancient times, and that the old leases contained a stipulation that it alone should be used.

What with woods, hills, lakes, undrained marshes, and the want of roads, even the portions that are now regarded as arable must formerly have supported but a scanty population. The best portions of the land were occupied by ecclesiastical edifices, and the male population rarely lived half their days, from the military and predatory dispositions of the people. The insecurity of property prevented its natural increase; and the population was thus kept for centuries at a low figure, and in a semi-barbarous condition. Wide districts were scarcely named, and others only partially explored; but there was a time coming, when every rood of land rose in moral importance and in commercial value. To explain who, and what the agents were, to whom this altered state of things is attributable, is one object of this essay. But at present, having merely placed the scenes and raised the curtain, we will pause a little before the introduction of the actors.